

Accident Prevention Week.—Governor James Rolph, Jr., has issued a proclamation declaring the week of May 21 to May 27, 1933, inclusive, to be Accident Prevention Week. During that week the Industrial Accident Commission, in cooperation with the California Safety Society, the National Safety Council, the United States Bureau of Mines, and other interested organizations, will hold an All-California Accident Prevention Conference on Wednesday and Thursday at the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco. At this meeting the speakers will be men and women particularly qualified to speak on their respective subjects.

A plan for community accident prevention councils, which can be put into effect in the different communities will be presented and will coordinate the efforts of the various groups in the community to the end that the enormous loss of life, which is occurring daily in our homes, on the streets and in industry, may be reduced to the minimum.

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject of Following Letter: An Antivivisectionist Communication Referred to in the Editorial Column of this Issue of California and Western Medicine. (See Page 379.)

THE NATIONAL ANTIVIVISECTION SOCIETY
58 East Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois

To Further a Humane Movement

Dear Fellow American:

Not so very long ago a small group of persons, whose names are synonymous in the public mind with accomplishment in many fields of activity, united for the institution of an effort to inject a new sort of humanitarianism into the current of modern thought.

Today the movement they inaugurated has become national in scope, strength and importance, and has won the sympathies and support of thousands of kindred spirits throughout the United States.

This movement has for its purpose the abolition of so-called "scientific" practices which involve indescribable agony to live, domestic animals used in surgical experimentation. Its forces have been mobilized under the standard of the National Antivivisection Society, from the Chicago headquarters of which you are receiving this communication.

The practices this society are opposing have been pronounced medieval and barbarous by world authorities. They occur daily in laboratories in all parts of the country, and have been denounced by outstanding medical men as futile and fanatic. They are described and commented upon in the pamphlet which accompanies this letter and which is sent to you so that you may be in possession of the facts that outraged the sensibilities of your intelligent fellow Americans and led to the formation of this organization.

We hope that these startling revelations will bring a new recruit into our campaign to stamp out a variety of intolerable evils consequent to the activities of vivisectionists. You will see how they are reflected in increased taxes and nullification of certain rights and liberties to which you, a law-abiding American citizen, are entitled.

We invite you, after considering these facts, to become a member of the National Antivivisection Society, and enclose an application blank for your convenience. Your support is urgently needed in this drive to halt the production and sale of injurious serums and vaccines, and to enact laws making illegal the torture of live animals without benefit of anesthesia.

Incidentally, not one cent of the funds received by this organization is utilized for salaries. They are expended solely in the interest of humane education to the end that vivisection may be abolished.

Looking forward to enrolling you as a member, we are,

Yours very truly,

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Managing Director.

VETERAN DISABILITIES AND RATINGS*

I

When the Federal Government closed its books for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1932, the American people were shocked to learn that total revenues from income taxes—individual and corporate combined—did not quite cover all the costs of the Veterans' Administration services for the twelve months just ended. Incredible as it seemed, the figures were indisputable. Income-tax collections for the year, as officially reported by the Secretary of the Treasury, were \$1,057,335,853, while the combined disbursements for veterans' pensions, hospitalization, disability allowances, construction, bonus loans and payments, and administrative expenses came to the neat sum of \$1,064,268,966.

Of the many bewildering fiscal problems brought into sharp relief by the depression, this, perhaps, was the most alarming—and for very good reason. During the decade from 1923 to 1932, income taxes had provided, on the average, 51.41 per cent of the federal revenues. At the close of that period, a single function of government—one administrative unit out of fifty-one in the federal establishment—called for more money in a year than had been garnered from the principal source of revenue.

Here was a critical situation indeed. How did it happen that things were brought to such a pass?

Back in 1921 the full cost of veterans' services had been \$662,481,718. This figure was hailed at the time as far and away the largest annual appropriation for such purposes which any government had ever made in all human history. True, there were still on the rolls of the Pension Bureau a thinning group of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans; but their share of the annual bounty was but \$260,000,000, only about one-third of the total. The balance of \$402,000,000 was entirely for World War benefits. In the rosy dawn of the new economic era, the American people felt rather proud that they were caring for their war veterans in magnificent style. All of the direct death claims for field casualties in the World War had long since been paid, and the official records of the War and Navy Departments showed that, of the survivors of the conflict, there were only 234,161 who had been wounded in action. If each of these wounded veterans had been granted an outright allowance of \$1,000 a year (some \$400 more than the then average per capita income in the United States), the maximum annual cost would have been but \$234,161,000. To be actually paying annually almost twice that sum for hospitalization, vocational training, war risk insurance, and compensation, appeared, under the circumstances, a truly American expression of noble patriotism, a fine acceptance of a high moral obligation, satisfactory to the national conscience from every point of view.

By 1930 the combined disbursements in behalf of the veterans had increased to \$835,275,349, and the next year the figure leaped across the billion mark for the first time, to \$1,021,559,957. Since 1931 the annual expenditures, including authorizations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1934, have averaged slightly more than \$1,000,000,000. Nor is this all. The special economy committee of the House of Representatives reported on April 25, 1932, that veteran costs for the decade 1933-1942 would, under prevailing laws, aggregate \$12,000,000,000, or an average of \$1,200,000,000 annually. Actuaries of the Treasury Department have submitted informal estimates to the House Committee on Appropriations placing expenditures for the veterans during the fiscal year 1949 at \$2,350,000,000. . . .

It is interesting to compare America's treatment of her veterans with that of some of the other principal powers engaged in the war. Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Canada mobilized between them

* Excerpts from an article by Lawrence Sullivan in the *Atlantic Monthly*, April, 1933. (See also page 404.)